

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 286535

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: RH, PDEV, UK

SUBJECT: RODESIA: SITHOLE-MOOSE MEETING, NOV. 30

1. SUMMARY: SITHOLE TOLD MOOSE NOVEMBER 30 THAT HE WOULD TRY TO CONVINCE SMITH TO ALLOW OTHER NATIONALISTS TO PARTICIPATE IN NEGOTIATIONS AND WILL DEMAND THAT ANY SETTLEMENT BE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS. MOOSE EXPLAINED THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE U.S.-U.K. PROPOSALS, BUT THIS WOULD NOT INDICATE PREJUDICE AGAINST SITHOLE. END SUMMARY.

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2. REVEREND SITHOLE MET WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 30. SITHOLE BEGAN CONVERSATION BY RUNNING THROUGH HIS NOW-STANDARD PRESENTATION; HE ACCEPTS BASICS OF ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS, BUT IS CONCERNED BY DICTATORIAL POWERS OF RESIDENT COMMISSIONER AND WHAT HE VIEWS AS UNNECESSARILY ATTENTIVE ATTITUDE OF U.S. AND U.K. TO PATRIOTIC FRONT AND FRONT LINE STATES. HE ARGUED THAT

THERE COULD BE NO CEASEFIRE BEFORE A TOTAL SETTLEMENT WAS AGREED TO AND APPEARED GENUINELY PLEASED WHEN MOOSE RESPONDED THAT THAT IS OUR POSITION AS WELL. MOOSE ALSO AGREED WITH SITHOLE'S ASSERTION THAT POLITICAL POWER SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED ONLY THROUGH THE BALLOT BOX. SITHOLE

URGED THAT U.S.- U.K. SHOULD SPEAK OUT MORE FORCEFULLY IN SUSTAINING POSITION THAT ELECTIONS MUST BE HELD BEFORE INDEPENDENCE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MOOSE'S QUESTIONS ABOUT SMITH'S OFFER TO NEGOTIATE AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, SITHOLE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. ALL THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE MUST HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPROVE A NEW CONSTITUTION VIA A REFERENDUM, NOT JUST THE CURRENT WHITE ELECTORATE.

B. HE WANTS TO 'BRING SMITH AROUND' TO ACCEPTING OTHER NATIONALISTS INTO NEGOTIATIONS. SMITH'S TERMS FOR NKOMO, MUGABE PARTICIPATION (RENUNCIATION OF VIOLENCE) ARE UNREALISTIC.

C. HE IS UNSURE WHETHER SMITH IS SINCERE AND WILLING TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY. HE IS UNSURE WHETHER SMITH'S PHRASEOLOGY ABOUT ADULT SUFFRAGE REALLY MEANS ONE MAN, CONFIDENTIAL

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ONE VOTE. SITHOLE WILL ACCEPT NOTHING LESS THAN ONE MAN, ONE VOTE.

D. PARLIAMENTARY BLOCKING MECHANISM FOR WHITES IS OUT OF THE QUESTION.

E. HE WILL DEMAND THAT ANY SETTLEMENT MUST BE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS: "THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN 13 YEARS THAT WE HAVE HAD A DECENT FRAME OF REFERENCE."

4. IN EXPLAINING U.S. POSITION MOOSE NOTED THAT WE INTEND TO PURSUE THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS AND THAT WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS AS ONE IN WHICH ALL CONTENDERS TO POWER HAVE A FAIR OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN POWER THROUGH ELECTIONS. U.S. PUBLIC WOULD NOT SUPPORT A SETTLEMENT THAT IS NOT DEMONSTRABLY FAIR TO ALL PARTIES OR APPROVE OF PRESSURES ON SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA WHICH DID NOT HAVE A FAIR SETTLEMENT AS THEIR LOGICAL RESULT. MOOSE NOTED THAT USG HAD CAUTIOUSLY WELCOMED SMITH'S CONDITIONAL MOVE TOWARD UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE, BUT THAT WE SEE

MANY QUESTIONS WHICH REMAIN TO BE ANSWERED. WE WILL
MOVE AHEAD WITH WILLINGNESS TO WORK TOGETHER WITH ALL
WHO SHARE OUR GOALS. OUR CONTINUED ADVOCACY OF OUR PLAN
SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS PREJUDICE TOWARD SITHOLE.

5. FOR LONDON: YOU MAY SHARE THIS CABLE WITH FCO. VANCE

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